

Delaware wildfire crew wraps up successful assignment



Delaware's wildfire crew after completing their final shift on Division Alpha of the Cougar Fire. The crew are shown on the banks of Lightning Creek in Idaho.

DOVER, Del. – Delaware's wildfire crew returns to the First State this week after wrapping up a successful two-week assignment fighting blazes in Idaho's [Panhandle National Forests region](#). The crew is scheduled to be back at [Blackbird State Forest in Smyrna](#) on Thursday, August 23, at approximately 6:00 p.m.



Delaware firefighters (from left) Ryan Krammes of Newark, Dan Mihok of Magnolia, and Jeff Wilson of Clayton.

The Delaware Forest Service dispatched the team of 20 wildland firefighters to [Montana on August 4](#) and the crew was immediately sent to northern Idaho to [fight the Copper Mountain Fire](#), situated on the Canadian border. While there, the crew stayed in the somewhat primitive conditions of “spike camp” and ate MRE’s (meals ready-to-eat). This past week, the crew battled the [Cougar Fire](#), a 5,880-acre blaze burning in steep rugged terrain located approximately 5 miles east of Hope, Idaho. The fire was only 26% contained as of August 22. The National Fire Preparedness Level remains at 5 on a 5-point scale. The [Incident Management Situation Report](#) for August 22 shows that 105 active incidents are now burning a total of 1.85 million acres. There are currently 513 wildfire crews on assignment, along with 1,387 engines and a total of 25,583 personnel committed.

For more information, contact Kyle Hoyd, Delaware Wildland Fire Program, at 302-698-4548, or kyle.hoyd@delaware.gov



Delaware's crew completes their last shift on Idaho's Cougar Fire. The team is expected to return to the First State on Thursday, August 23.